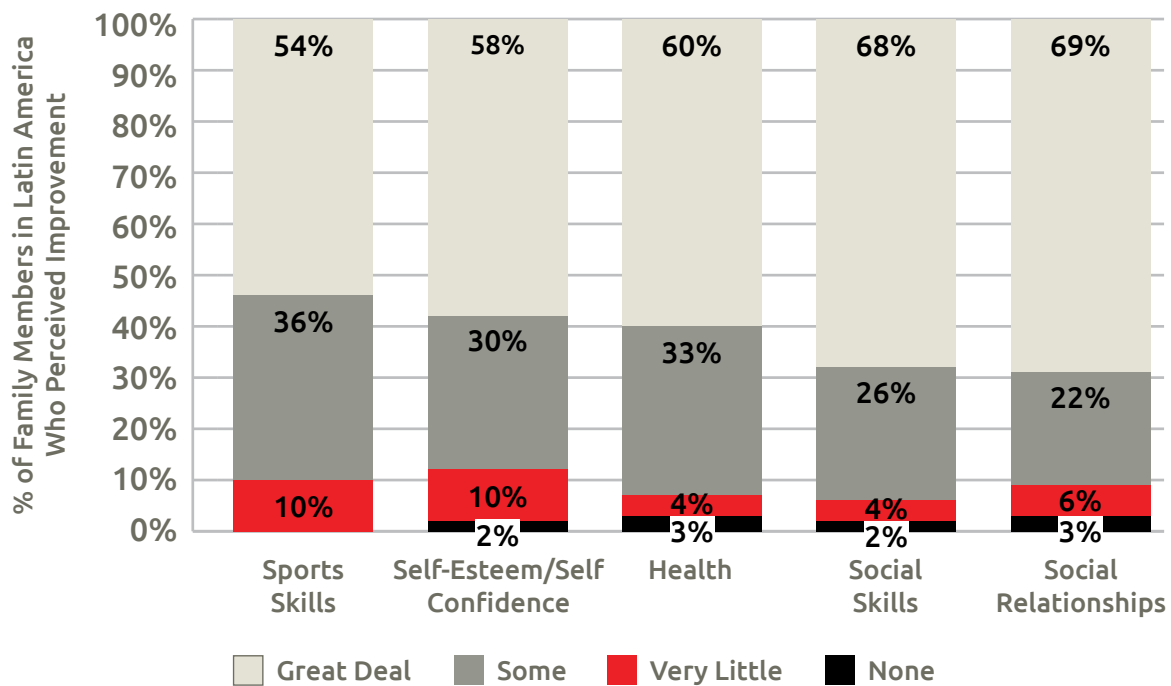


- In a U.S. study, parents reported that 85.2% of athletes who were ‘very involved’ in Special Olympics, improved their sports skills.

“I like to prove to myself that I can do it.”

—Athlete, United States⁸

FAMILY PERCEPTIONS OF ATHLETE IMPROVEMENT⁹



FAMILIES

Families also benefit from athletes participating in Special Olympics. A U.S. study found that¹⁰:

- Parents and siblings of athletes felt **Special Olympics provided opportunities for the family to come together, thereby strengthening family relationships.** They also reported that it provided opportunities to connect with other families and be meaningfully involved in the community.
- Over half of athletes’ siblings (57%) felt that **participation in Special Olympics had brought their family closer together.**
- 52% of athletes’ siblings said that attending Special Olympics events gave them the **opportunity to see and be proud of their brothers’ and/or sisters’ abilities and accomplishments.**

8 Siperstein, G. N., Harada, C. M., Parker, R. C., Hardman, M. L., & McGuire, J. (2005). *Comprehensive national study of Special Olympics programs in the United States. A special report.* University of Massachusetts Boston. Washington, DC: Special Olympics, Inc.

9 Harada C, Parker R, Siperstein G. *A comprehensive national study of Special Olympics programs in Latin America: findings from Argentina, Brazil, and Peru.* Boston: University of Massachusetts Boston; 2008

10 Kersh, J., & Siperstein, G. N. (2008). *The positive contributions of Special Olympics to the family.* Special Olympics: Washington, DC.